

## [18 USCS § 2701](#)

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United States Code Service > TITLE 18. CRIMES AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (§§ 1 — 6005) > Part I. Crimes (Chs. 1 — 123) > CHAPTER 121. Stored wire and electronic communications and transactional records access (§§ 2701 — 2713)

### § 2701. Unlawful access to stored communications

(a) **Offense.** Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section whoever—

- (1) intentionally accesses without authorization a facility through which an electronic communication service is provided; or
- (2) intentionally exceeds an authorization to access that facility;

and thereby obtains, alters, or prevents authorized access to a wire or electronic communication while it is in electronic storage in such system shall be punished as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) **Punishment.** [...]

(c) **Exceptions.** Subsection (a) of this section does not apply with respect to conduct authorized—

- (1) by the person or entity providing a wire or electronic communications service;
- (2) by a user of that service with respect to a communication of or intended for that user; or
- (3) in section 2703, 2704 or 2518 of this title [[18 USCS § 2703](#), [2704](#), or [2518](#)].

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